

Message Text

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12

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06

SAM-01 OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07

PA-01 PRS-01 /104 W

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R 271818Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 877

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POUCHED INFO ALL CONSULATES IN CANADA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, CA

SUBJ: BEAUFORT SEA: DOME PETROLEUM WANTS TO START FIVE MORE
WELLS

1. AUGUST 27 TORONTO GLOBE AND MAIL ARTICLE HAS REPORTED THAT
DOME PETROLEUM IS SEEKING PERMISSION FROM GOC TO BEGIN DRILLING
FIVE NEW WELLS IN BEAUFORT SEA THIS SUMMER. ACCORDING TO
NEWS ITEM, GOC HAS AUTHORIZED PREPARATORY WORK ONLY AT THE
FIVE SITES AND HAS NOT APPROVED DRILLING. DOME WANTS TO SET
CASING TO A DEPTH OF AT LEAST 1,000 FEET AT EACH SITE SO THAT
DRILLING CAN BEGIN IMMEDIATELY SUMMER OF 1977.

2. ARTICLE CONJECTURES THAT OPPOSITION WILL BE STIRRED
AS A RESULT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS. APPARENTLY, SETTING
THE CASING AT THE FIVE WELLS "PROBABLY COULD NOT BE
COMPLETED UNTIL MID-OCTOBER. WHEN THE GOVERNMENT GRANTED
DOME PERMISSION TO DRILL TWO WELLS....THIS SUMMER IT
SHORTENED THE DRILLING SEASON TO SEPTEMBER 15 WITH A
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CONDITIONAL EXTENSION TO SEPTEMBER 25....".

3. ARTICLE CONCLUDES BY REPORTING THAT DOME PLANS TO DO EXPERIMENTAL WORK THIS WINTER TO DETERMINE WHETHER DRILLING CAN BE CONDUCTED FROM ICE-LOCKED SHIPS.

4. COMMENT: GOC CONFIRMS THAT IT HAS AUTHORIZED ONLY PREPARATORY WORK ON FIVE SITES. EMBASSY WOULD BE INTERESTED IN ANY REPORTS DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR MAY BE RECEIVING FROM ITS INSPECTORS REGARDING DOME PLANS AND PREPARATIONS.

5. ACCORDING TO GOC SOURCES, DOME PETROLEUM IMMEDIATELY UPON RECEIPT OF PERMISSION TO DRILL TWO WELLS NEGAN TO PRESSURE GOC TO BE ALLOWED TO DRILL THREE ADDITIONAL WELLS. THIS WAS NOT GRANTED AND POINT WAS MADE TO DOME THAT BAD WEATHER WOULD PROBABLY NOT PERMIT FURTHER ACTION UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.
DUEMLING

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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